1	2	3
8.	Department of Telecommunications	(i) Complaints of senior citizens are registered under senior citizens category with VIP flag, which is a priority category. (ii) Senior citizens are allowed to register telephone connection under N-OYT Special Category, which is a priority category.
9.	Ministry of Rural Development/State Governments/U.T. Admns.	(i) Under Old Age Pension Scheme, which is a component of the National Social Assistance Programme, monthly pension is given at variable rates to the destitute elderly by various State Governments/UT Administrations. (ii) Under the Annapoorna Scheme being implemented by the State Governments/UT Administration, 10kg. of foodgrains per beneficiary per month are provided free of cost to those senior citizens who remain uncovered under the old age pension scheme.
10.	MCD, Delhi	(i) MCD, Delhi, has opened a separate counter to facilitate the senior citizens for submission of property tax bills. (ii) A rebate of 30% of the property tax due on the covered space of a building up to one hundred sq. mtrs. of the covered space has been allowed by the corporation in the case of any self-occupied residential building singly owned by a man who is 65 years or more in age.
11.	Miscellaneous	(i) Courts in the country accord priority to cases involving older persons and ensure their expeditious disposal.

Report of Safai Karmachari Andolan on scavengers

3157. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report was submitted quite recently in the Supreme Court by Safai Karamachari Andolan that the human scavengers strength has increased to 8 lakhs;

(b) if so, the details of the Supreme Court's orders;

(c) the details of action taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether a law was enacted in 1993, banning human scavenging throughout the country;

(e) if so, the number of employers prosecuted, fined and convicted, State-wise as on date for engaging human scavengers in violation of the law banning human scavenging; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) A petition was filed by the Safai Karmachari Andolan in November, 2003. The Supreme court had asked the Union of India and all State and UT Governments to file counter affidavit. The next hearing of the case is on 21.7.2006.

(d) Sanitation being a State subject, the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 was enacted by the Parliament after the resolutions for Central legislation were passed by some State Legislatures. It, *interalia*, provides for prohibition of employment of manual scavengers as well as construction or continuance of dry latrines and for the regulation of construction and maintenance of water seal latrines and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(e) and (f) The State of Uttar Pradesh has filed more than 12500 prosecutions in the judicial courts for contravention of the provisions of the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993. The rest of information is being collected from the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, which is implementing the Act.

Inclusion of Thachar Community in SC List

3158. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1914 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Government have received any comments from the Registrar General of India regarding the inclusion of 'Thachar' Community in the Scheduled Caste List;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the latest position of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The comments of the Registrar General of India have been sent to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes for their comments, as per approved modalities.

Sub-classification of SCs

3159. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce a sub-classification among the SCs;